

FAWCETT MOVIE COMIC

AUG. NO. 12

RUSTLERS ON HORSEBACK



10¢

"Rocky" LANE

HURLES A SIX-GUN
SURPRISE IN

REPUBLIC PICTURES'
LATEST WESTERN THRILLER

"RUSTLERS ON
HORSEBACK"





THRILL TO THE TWO-FISTED ACTION AND SIX-GUN
SURPRISES DEALT BY **"ROCKY" LANE** IN REPUBLIC PICTURES'
NEW WESTERN DRAMA **"RUSTLERS ON HORSEBACK"**





RUSTLERS ON HORSEBACK

starring

ALLAN "ROCKY" LANE

And His Stallion

BLACK JACE

with

EDDY WALLER

ROY BARCROFT

CLAUDIA BARRETT

Directed by FRED C. BRANNON - Associate Producer GORDON KAY

Written by RICHARD WORMER


Cast

ALLAN "ROCKY" LANE... EDDY WALLER... ROY BARCROFT... CLAUDIA BARRETT...
 FRED C. BRANNON... GORDON KAY... RICHARD WORMER...
 ...

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An Adaptation of A REPUBLIC PICTURE

RUSTLERS ON HORSEBACK



FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WEST TERRITORY THEY CAME - THE SCORCHED MOST RUTHLESS RUSTLERS IN THE WEST! AND THEY ALL WERE HEADING FOR THE MYTHOLOGICAL PRIZE! WHAT SUDDEN SCHEME WAS BRING KATCHED IN THOSE BRIDGEMOOR HILLS?

YOUR FAVORITE MARSHAL ROCKY LANE BOULED ON HIS SIX-GUNS AND SET OUT TO SOLVE THIS DANGEROUS MYSTERY HE EXPECTED A HEAT OF TROUBLE, BUT HE NEVER DREAMED THAT KATE WAS PLANNING TO HAND HIM AN EMBLEM OF THE LAW AS THE DEADLIEST GUN-SLINGER IN THE RANGE OF THE

RUSTLERS ON HORSEBACK!

Late one afternoon near Sloan Junction, a wandering peddler makes his way across the brush!



LOST AGAIN! DODGERS! IT JUST CAN'T SEEM TO FIND MY WAY, BUT I WERE COME A RIDER. I'LL SEE HIM FOR PROTECTION.



HEY, MISTER! I CAN TELL ME THE WAY TO.

SURFING POLECATS, JUST WHEN I'M TRYING TO GET OUT OF HERE THAT WANDERING GALLOP HAS TO SPOT ME.



WELL I'LL BE HE PICKED INTO THAT BRUSH LIKE A SCARED BUNNY WHEN HE HEARD MY VOICE. SOMETHING MUST BE UP.

At that moment, Marshal Rocky Lane is closely watching the scene!



FOR A BADDY, WITH HIS REPUTATION, JAKE CLINE IS PRETTY SHY ABOUT HUNTING POLICE. LET'S GO, BUNCH JACK! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM!



BLAST THE LUCK! THERE'S THAT OTHER HOMBRE THAT'S BEEN TAILING ME FOR TWO DAYS. LET'S MOVE, BUNCH. WE'RE GONNA MAKE ONE MORE TRY AT LOSING HIM.



Just then

LOOKS LIKE ONE OF CLINE'S BAD DAYS.

As Rocky discounts to help the fallen rider, the peddler's wagon pulls up.





A few sips of Haggel's strange brew and Glue doubles up in agony.





Black Jack closes the distance in short order, and



Over a small brush fire Rocky prepares a meager supper. Then



But Rocky's left hand moves with lightning speed, and

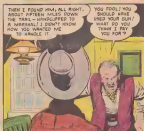




During the night, a shadow moves in the brush!



Later, at a ranch house miles away











On the Junction trail



MURRAY AND BEARD AND DEB GET DOWN THERE AND RUN THAT STAGE INTO THE ROOF BLOOM. ROCKY, YOU AND THE OUP GOAT COVER ME FROM THIS SIDE. WHEN I SIGNAL YOU, START SHOOTING.

HERE COMES THE STAGE NOW. ALL RIGHT, MURRAY. AS SOON AS THOSE CYWLOGOTS JUMP THE COACH WE JUMP THEM.

BUT THERE'S FOUR OF THEM - GUP! SAY, HOW'D I GET MIXED UP IN THIS ANYHOW?



But as the stage heads into the ambush, Straighten's voice suddenly rings out.



WHAT! DON'T SHOOT! LET 'EM PASS.

WHAT'S UP?



POSS'LY KNOW BUT I DON'T CARE. I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD!



THERE WAS SOMEONE ON THAT STAGE THAT SHOOK 'EM UP. PROBABLY THE MAN WHO'S DRIVING 'EM OFFERS.

GET COLD FEET, SKEWEN?

HEW! JUST A CHANGE IN PLANS. WE'RE RAMPING INTO SUGAN JUNCTION AHEAD OF THEM.



WE'LL TAKE THE OLD SET-OUT TO TOWN. MURRAY, YOU, BEARD AND DEB GET BACK TO THE RANCH AND STRAIGHTEN UP THE PLACE.

RIGHT, BOSS!

Later, as the stage arrives at Sogan Junction..



MR. JOSH TAYLOR?

WELL, YES, I'M JOSH TAYLOR.

IT'M LEO STRAYKIN, OWNER OF THE REYNOLDS RANCH, THOUGHT I'D TAKE YOU OUT TO SEE OUR SPREAD. IT'S JUST THE PLACE FOR THOSE SETTLERS YOU'RE BUYING FOR.



I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. STRAYKIN, BUT AFTER THAT HOLD-UP ON THE EDGE OF TOWN...



YES! BUT REMEMBER, THEY LET US PASS UNARMED. ON WELL, THAT'S THE WEST - ANY WEST-WARD ROY, AS REYNOLDS SAID.

AND QUITE A BOON, TOO. SELLING AT A DOLLAR A VOLUME - SOUND IN BUCKRAH.



YOU'RE NOT SELLING BOOKS NOW, MR. PARASKE. YOU'RE SELLING A RANCH.

QUITE SO! AND FOR FIVE PER CENT COMMISSION. I DON'T MIND SAYING THE PRICE IS ABSOLUTELY LOW AT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND. OR - BY THE WAY, DO YOU HAVE THE MONEY WITH YOU?



WELL, YES AND NO. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER - IN PRIVATE.



OH, I WANT YOU TO MEET A TOP HAND OF MINE, ROCKY CLUNE, AND MY DEER HUNTER CLARK. THIS IS JOHN TAYLOR AND...



JOHNNY BENNETT. I'M A SURVEYOR, WORKING FOR MR. TAYLOR.



AND THIS IS KEN JORDAN. HE'S A LAWYER. I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE HIM CHICK OVER YOUR TITLE.



UNDERSTAND YOU BOUGHT THE PLACE FROM A MAN NAMED REYNOLDS - NOW RECOVER.



ER - YEAH! HUSSET, PICK UP A PAD AT THE STABLE. THERE YOU'LL BE STAYING AT THE RANCH.





ROCKY, I WANT YOU TO MEET MR. PARADISE.

BOOK SALESMAN, BY TRADE. SELLING THE COMPLETE SHAKESPEARE. THE MANAGER'S AND TELLING US ABOUT GREAT WORKS OF GREAT MINDS.



AND GOOD DANCERS, AT GOOD PRICES, ETC.

QUITE SO. HE SAID AN A SIDE LINE, OF COURSE, BUT THE METHUEN RANCH SHOULD HARDLY BECOME SELLING.



As Nogget and Rocky load the rig

IT'S AS PLAIN AS DAY, STRAWN'S WORKING WITH ONE OF THEM TO ROB THAT MAN TAYLOR. YOU'VE GOT TO ARREST THEM, ROCKY.

WELL, YOU SUGGEST? JORDAN, PARADISE, BENNETT? NO—WE HAVE TO LAY LOW AND TRY TO SPOT WHICH ONE IS IN CAMOUFLAGE WITH STRAWN.



YES, YOU'RE FROM THE METHUEN RANCH. I GOT A LETTER HERE FOR A JACK METHUEN. KNOW HIM?

ER—YEAH! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.



THAT LETTER SEEMS TO HAVE HIM WORRIED.

NOW IT'S NOTHING. COME ON, LET'S GET MOVING.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, TROUBLE BRENNER, STRAWN?



Back at the ranch

NOW, ABOUT THE MONEY FOR THE RANCH. I DIDN'T WANT TO CARRY A SUSPECTED THIEF IN CASE, SO MY BROTHER'S HOLDING THE MONEY FOR ME BACK IN JACKSON COUNTY AND HE'LL GIVE IT UP ONLY WHEN I AUTHORIZE HIM TO.



THERE MIGHT BE A HOLE IN YOUR SCHEME THOUGH, MR. TAYLOR. THERE'S ENOUGH MONEY INVOLVED TO MAKE SOME MEN GET SMYSL. AUGH.

SURE? WHAT'S TO STOP SOME SCOUNDRELS FROM FORGING YOU TO WRITE A NOTE TO YOUR BROTHER AND—



Rocky helps the young surveyor at the ranch line.



BUT LATER ROCKY WAS SHOT...



On a nearby rise





Shortly afterward, at the ranch—





DON'T MOVE, JACK! AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING. HURRY, YOU NEED A LOOKOUT.



PRETTY GIRL IS IT YOUR WIFE, JACK?

WHAT'S THIS "JACK" BUSINESS? MY NAME'S SCOTT.



AND I FIGURE YOU'RE JACK REYNOLDS. YOU MUST'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE OR YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT SAFE COMBINATION.

WELL, THAT DOESN'T FEEL...



BEHOLD, I SEE YOU WERE READING THAT LETTER THAT CAME FOR JACK REYNOLDS AT THE GUNSTON, YESTERDAY. OR DO YOU ALWAYS READ OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL?

ALL RIGHT, I'M JACK REYNOLDS. WHAT'S IT TO YOU?



NOTHING, EXCEPT I HAPPEN TO BE A MARSHAL - AND I HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU TOOK A SHOT AT STEVENS.

WELL, HE KILLED MY FATHER AND STOLE THE RACE.



GOT ANY POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF THAT?

I HAD HOPED TO FIND SOME PROOF IN THAT SAFE, BUT THERE'S NOTHING LEFT EXCEPT THAT PICTURE OF MY WIFE, CAROL, AND A FEW KEYPHANS.



WHAT MADE YOU COME OUT HERE TO KINNESTON?

WELL, SMOKE WAS IN THE BEST OF HEALTH AND THEN, ABOUT A MONTH AGO, I SUDDENLY GOT WORD HE DIED. HE SUPPOSEDLY SOLD THE RANCH, YET I NEVER SAW ANY MONEY FROM THE DEAL.





Rocky reports to Straykin

SO YOU DIDN'T SPOT ANYTHING, KAT? WELL, IT WASN'T A BUNSLINGER THAT WASH THAT HOLE IN MY ABE.

IT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF YOUR MEN BEING FUNNY, STRAYKIN. I HOPE THOSE ROBBER-NECKS UNDERSTAND THAT'RE THROUGH HERE WHEN I TAKE OVER.



SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO TAKE THE PLACE?

WELL, I'VE BEEN ENOUGH TO...



MR. KAT, AGAIN? PARKER THE SURVEYING, MR. TAYLOR?

NO, I HAVEN'T. BEHOLD, WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM MR. TAYLOR'S LAMEN. HE'S STILL IN TOWN CHECKING THE TITLE.



WELL, SUPPOSE I GO INTO THE JUNCTION AND MEET THOSE ALONG WHEATFIELD, LEO. YOU CAN TRY QUESTIONING WHATEVER ONE OF THOSE LITTLE BROTHERS MR. TAYLOR IS GOING TO SEND TO HIS BROTHER.

EVEN IF HE SO GUESSES RIGHT, I WOULDN'T TELL HIM. COME ON, JOHNNY LET'S GO UP TO MY ROOM AND CHECK YOUR REPORTS.

Ben Nugget returns to the ranch



HEY YOU! SURPRISE YOU BEEN?

OVER AT LOCAL JUNCTION BURNING SOME COOKING SUPPLIES.



A MIGHTY FINE! TAYLOR, YOUR BROTHER DID JUST AFTER THAT FELLOW TOOK A SHOT AT ME.

HE WAS BEING WITH CLASH. HERE, LAST I SAW OF HIM.



THAT'S RIGHT, HE SAID HE HAD SOMETHING IN TOWN, SO I LET HIM BE. H. ANYTHING MORE WITH THAT?

I DON'T USE YOUR LETTING HIM GO AGAINST MY ORDERS.

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I DON'T MIND
TAKING ORDERS,
STRAYERS—FROM
THE JOE MAN.

I HAD YOU!
FOR THE LAST
TIME. YOU'RE
TAKING ORDERS
FROM ME.



THEY GOT'VE BEEN TALKING
PRETTY LOUD—AND PRETTY
OFTEN. MAYBE WE
DUGHT TO SETTLE
THIS RIGHT NOW.

I'M IN
A SPOT.
I'LL HAVE
TO WORK
FAST.



I DON'T LIKE GUNS
POINTED AT ME,
MURRAY.



PUTY TOS—
GOF!



WARRS YOU DOUR?
TO CALM DOWN,
FRIEND

HOLD ON, MURRAY, WE CAN SETTLE THIS LATER.
I DON'T WANT ANYONE GETTING WISE TO OUR
DEAL UNTIL WE GET THE MONEY
FROM SAYLOR.



LOOKS LIKE
BOOMBOOM'S WIFE
ALREADY!

DON'T
SHOOT,
YOU FOOL!
HE'S THE
BOSS!



THAT'S RIGHT, I'M THE BOSS, AND I DON'T LIKE
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING. STRAYERS, I JUST SAW
JORDAN AT THE JUNCTION. HE'S BEEN TALKING TO
A GIRL WHO SAYS SHE'S MRS JACK RETHOLDS.
HE WAS COMING HERE TO TELL TENDON.





But as Rocky and Jack mount their horses









Rocky jumps back into the room and bars the door, and











SUSPENSE! DANGER! INTRIGUE!

DON'T MISS REPUBLIC PICTURES' LATEST WESTERN

"RUSTLERS ON HORSEBACK"

STARRING ALLAN "ROCKY" LANE





FIGHTING MARSHAL
ALLAN "ROCKY" LANE

BATTLES A RUTHLESS
OUTLAW GANG IN
REPUBLIC PICTURES'
LATEST WESTERN THRILLER
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